

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 16, 2003 presents the examination of claims 1 and 8-16. Claims 1, 8 and 13 are amended herein. Claim 17 is newly presented for examination.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 1 and all dependent claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite in that claim 1 erroneously contains a period within its text. This minor typographical error has been corrected in the present amendment of claim 1.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 8-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Falk, Shisedo, Kanebo or Skandigen. The Examiner notes that each of these references discloses administration of some hyaluronic acid derivative to a subject for treatment of some skin condition. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

Applicants submit that the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by any of the Falk, Shisedo, Kanebo or Skandigen references. None of the cited references disclose a hyaluronic acid derivative having a terminal unit (R⁹ in the present claims) described by formula (11) as in the present claims. Accordingly,

the instant claims are distinct from what is disclosed by Falk, Shisedo, Kanebo or Skandigen and the instant rejections should be withdrawn.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark J. Nuell, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 36,623) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

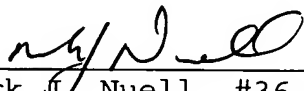
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

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required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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